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RECENT LITERATURE.

ORTON'S ANDES AND THE AMAZON.¹—This is the work of a naturalist as well as a traveler, and presents a lively and, so far as we are aware, an entirely truthful account of the wonderful regions on each side of the Andes of Peru. Though the scientific results of the two expeditions across the Andes and down the Amazons have been published elsewhere, those of more popular interest are introduced into the narrative. The third edition contains much new matter, with a new map of the Marañon region, "a vast and interesting country, most rudely laid down on existing maps." The author also presents "facts illustrating the commercial resources and possibilities of the Valley of the Amazons, a subject which is destined to arrest the attention of enterprising men and nations." The present edition has been prepared by adding to the narrative of the expedition of 1867 a description of a more southerly route. The book is copiously and well illustrated, and describes a course of travel which will prove very attractive to tourists.

WILSON'S PREHISTORIC MAN.²—This standard book has passed into a third edition, in which "much of the original work has been rewritten. Several chapters have been replaced by new matter. Others have been condensed or recast, with considerable modifications and a new arrangement of the whole." The illustrations are abundant and excellent, a number of new ones having been engraved for this edition.

Commendation of such a work, so long and favorably known to the public, is scarcely necessary. A few points seem to us open to correction. For example, on page 34 (vol. i.) the author allows the following statement to appear: "Fossil human remains have also been recovered from a calcareous conglomerate of the coral reefs of Florida, estimated by Professor Agassiz to be not less than ten thousand years old." This estimate is worthless, as may be seen by a note in the *NATURALIST* (ii. 443) by Count Pourtales, the original discoverer of the bones. He says, "The human jaw and other bones found in Florida by myself in 1848 were not in a coral formation, but in a fresh-water sandstone on the shore of Lake Monroe, associated with fresh-water shells of species still living in the lake (*Paludina*, *Ampullaria*, etc.). No date can be assigned to the formation of that deposit, at least from present observation."

Professor Wilson is cautious in accepting the evidence of the high antiquity of man, rather more so than the majority of leading anthropologists.

¹ *The Andes and the Amazon; or, Across the Continent of South America.* By JAMES ORTON. Third Edition, revised and enlarged, containing Notes of a Second Journey across the Continent from Para to Lima and Lake Titicaca. With two Maps and numerous Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1876. 12mo, pp. 645.

² *Prehistoric Man.* Researches into the Origin of Civilization in the Old and New World. By DANIEL WILSON. Third Edition, revised and enlarged. With Illustrations. In two volumes. London: Macmillan & Co. 1876. 8vo.